59 Pol 27 Chicom-Chinat

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

SECRET

10 Action

SS Info

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PP RUEHC
DE RUASTP 3811 1601025
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P R 091010Z JUN 67
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUMJDH/AMCONSUL HONGKONG
STATE GRNC
BT
S E C R E T TAIPEI 3811

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Taipei 3811

L I M D I S

1. DEFMIN CHIANG CHING-KUO JUNE 8 TOLD DCM AND EA/ROC DIRECTOR BENNETT THAT GRC MND HAD THE DAY BEFORE COME TO CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT CHICOMS MIGHT BEGIN ACTIVITIES IN TAIWAN STRAITS AND OFFSHORE ISLANDS DESIGNED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF US PREOCCUPATION WITH EVENTS ELSEWHERE AND TO DRAW OFF US ENERGIES. HE THOUGHT THESE ACTIVITIES WOULD NOT HAVE PURPOSE OF MAKING SERIOUS GAINS, BUT WOULD BE DESIGNED ONLY FOR HARASSMENT. HE DID NOT WANT TO ASSIGN ANY HIGH DEGREE OF PROBABILITY TO THIS CONTINGENCY, BUT THOUGHT IT "AT LEAST POSSIBLE". HE INDICATED THAT GRC WOULD AVOID PROVOCATIONS DURING TENSE ME SITUATION.

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2. ON JUNE 5 GRC DEFENSE READINESS WENT FROM CONDITION FOUR TO CONDITION THREE, BUT WAS DOWNGRADED BACK TO THE NORMAL CONDITION OF FOUR BY JUNE 9, AFTER NEWS WAS RECEIVED OF EGYPTIAN ACCEPTANCE OF CEASE-FIRE.

3. DURING PAST WEEK CHICOM AIR REACTION TO GRC AIR PATROLS OVER STRAIT HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE INTENSE THAN NORMAL. THE NUMBER OF CHICOM AIRCRAFT REACTING TO GRC PATROLS HAS BEEN LARGER THAN NORMAL AND THEY HAVE FLOWN FARTHER EAST OF MAINLAND COAST THAN NORMALLY. HOWEVER THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT CHICOMS INTEND TO PROVOKE ANY CLASH, AND THEY MAY SIMPLY BE EXHIBITING CONVERSE OF GRC CONCERN, SUSPECTING THAT GRC MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TENSE SITUATION ELSEWHERE.
MCCONAUGHY
BT

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